

# The Echo

The Town of  
**GLEN ECHO, MARYLAND**  
Chartered, 1904



SEPTEMBER, 1986

## **Council Reaffirms Resolve to Prevent Alleged Two-Family House on Bryn Mawr**

By Gloria Levin

Although the town attorney cautioned "I'm not sure if, in practical terms, this will make a difference," members of the Town Council were unanimous in their resolve to continue legal steps to prevent a two-family dwelling on Bryn Mawr Avenue.

The town's petition appealing a County Board of Appeals decision in favor of the owners of 6006 Bryn Mawr Avenue has been filed, town attorney Tom Craven told the Council at the August 11 meeting. Oral arguments would be scheduled late this year, he conjectured.

Owners of the house were originally told they must dismantle an accessory apartment at that address. They then asked for a special exception for a two-dwelling unit (as non-resident owners of the house they could not qualify for the accessory apartment provision) and were turned down by the county Appeals Board.

In a puzzling later ruling, the Board determined that there was no convincing evidence that there actually were two separate apartments at the dwelling. Yet in their petition for a special exception at the earlier hearing, the owners stated that in 1981 they had spent \$3,000 to convert the rental house to a two-unit dwelling and that such use had existed for almost five years.

---continued on page 2

### **TOWN PROTESTS CUT IN METROBUS SERVICE**

Councilwoman Deborah Beers appeared at a public hearing August 20 on behalf of the town to oppose a proposed reduction in local bus services.

Plans are to cut the N5 service and eliminate late evening feeder service to and from the subway.

---continued on page 3

# The Echo

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**DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE-** September 26



Letters to the Editor are welcomed, as well as articles for publication. Volunteer reporters are always needed. Call the Editor, 229-3748.

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## TOWN OFFICIALS

(Town Office: 320-4041)

### MAYOR:

Fred Kuster 229-2070

### COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Debbie Beers 229-7308

Nancy Long 334-2865 or 229-0196

Harry Odell 229-4494

Bill Shultz 229-1269

### CLERK-TREASURER:

Lois Carroll 229-3780

### ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICER:

### ANIMAL CONTROL BOARD:

Nancy Helmig 229-0893

Jane Eldredge 229-4110

## COUNCIL CONTINUES APPEAL (from page 1)

Nevertheless, at a June 5 meeting on the case, the Board of Appeals ruled that intent to operate as two separate units must be (but was not) demonstrated in this case.

Attorney Craven pointed out that even if the whole house were available to all of its residents, there would still be five permissible residents and the nuisance of an excessive number of cars might not be decreased. Town residents Rene

Springuel and Don Dworsky questioned the practicality of the legal costs involved.

However, each of the Council members reaffirmed a belief that the case was worth pursuing. "It is not fair, just or right for a non-resident owner to operate a de facto accessory apartment," Councilwoman Long said. Councilman Shultz felt it was important that town residents know that the Council is operating under the same standards for everyone.

## Bus Cutback ( from page 1)

The rationale for these proposed changes is that Montgomery County has a goal of 100% cost recovery for bus routes in "rail corridors" leading downtown. The N5 has not been meeting this goal since the red line subway extension was opened, and N8 ridership has been light.

Councilwoman Beers pointed out, as did many others, that ridership on the N5 was not declining until the imposition of a 50 per cent surcharge and accompanying reduction in non rush hour service, which were inaugurated at the time of the opening of the subway extension.

While the surcharge was intended to equalize the cost of bus and subway trips, thus encouraging the latter, the result has been a loss of ridership on all lines. This fact seemed to be acknowledged by Metro officials in attendance at the meeting.

Driver traffic on Massachusetts Avenue has been increasing despite the opening of the subway, according to some witnesses. Many witnesses noted that, at the current one-way rush hour N5 fare of \$1.90, it is cheaper for a husband and wife to drive downtown together and park in a commercial lot than to ride the bus.

If the changes are implemented, they will be effective January 25, 1987. No decisions on the proposed changes were announced at the hearing.



## PROPOSED BUS CHANGES

The following are the changes in bus service to Glen Echo which have been proposed by Montgomery County and Metro:

**N5:** No change in route. Buses to operate from Glen Echo mornings at 6:50, 7:20, 7:43, 7:53, 8:11, 8:38 and at 5:08 p.m., cutting out six trips from Glen Echo in the morning and eight in the evening.

Buses to operate to Glen Echo at 7:30 in the morning, and evenings at 4:20, 4:50, 5:10, 5:30, 5:50 and 6:20 p.m., eliminating seven morning trips and five evening ones.

**N8:** To be discontinued and replaced by Ride-On service.

Addition of a 6:03 a.m. trip from Glen Echo.

The 11:36 p.m. trip from Glen Echo and the 11:56 trip from Friendship Heights would be discontinued.

Otherwise the service would remain the same.



## Property Owners Find Town Taxes Lowered

There was good news for some town property owners when they received their annual real estate tax notices.

While the state and county taxes were higher than last year, the town (special area) taxes were lower.

The Town Council decided in May to lower the tax rate from \$.75 to \$.71 per \$100 of real property valuation. However, because a property's valuation may be increased 15% per year, some people had higher taxes.

THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FIRST MAYOR OF GLEN ECHO  
John A. Garrett, 1904-1909

Part II

By J. Manuel Espinosa

In 1904, arrangements were made with the Washington Railway and Electric Company to have lights and stations placed at Princeton, Harvard, Bryn Mawr, Cornell and Oberlin Avenues. The following year, the Town Council began ordering a large number of town lot owners to build board walks according to plans and specifications within 30 days. The town paid some \$175 for incidental expenses, such as lumber, nails, and labor costs, as well as water pipe repairs. By November, 1905, the construction of town board walks was well underway.

In the fall of that year, Mr. Van B. Canada was granted permission to have the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company run telephone wires to his store at the corner of Harvard Avenue and the railroad track of the Washington and Great Falls Electric Railway Company. On February 1, 1906, the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Company was authorized to erect poles and run wires in the town for the purpose of furnishing light to the residents of Glen Echo.

On May 7, 1906, Mayor Garrett was elected for a second two-year term, again by a wide margin, receiving 36 of the 41 votes cast.

The beginnings of Glen Echo's volunteer fire department go back to the meeting of the Town Council of June 3, 1904, when \$125 was allotted for fire apparatus in the form of a hose and reel and the organization of a "fire brigade" was authorized. A "Fire Company Committee" was appointed by the town in January, 1907, and soon there were two fire extinguishers and a ladder stored in the Town Hall along with the other fire apparatus.

Miscellaneous town government housekeeping expenses in 1906 included a stove, \$50 for a typewriter and four cuspidors for the council chambers.

It would appear that the principal source of town income in those days was property taxes. In 1906, the rate was fifty cents per \$100 of the assessed value of the property. (This rate was more than two-thirds the current rate in the town; there was a substantial difference in the assessed value of the properties, however.) The Glen Echo Park assessment in 1906 was \$15,000. Other income came from licenses, fines, and fees for the use of the Town Hall. The charges were originally \$1.00 for social functions and \$1.00 an hour for Catholic Church services. The fee for social gatherings was later raised to \$1.50 for functions held after midnight, as a result of complaints by nearby residents of noisy and boisterous parties.

The taxable basis of the town was \$156,000, the Mayor notified the Council on July 5, 1907. The allocation in the budget for streets and avenues was \$350; water and sewers \$225; fire protection \$125; printing,

## Another Side to the Garrett Administration

The town marshal, as reported in last month's account, was busy attending to such problems as undesirable characters from out of town, wife beating, and residents working on Sunday. As work tools, Marshal Charles P. Collins was equipped with a blackjack, handcuffs, and a revolver (with which he shot a loose dog).

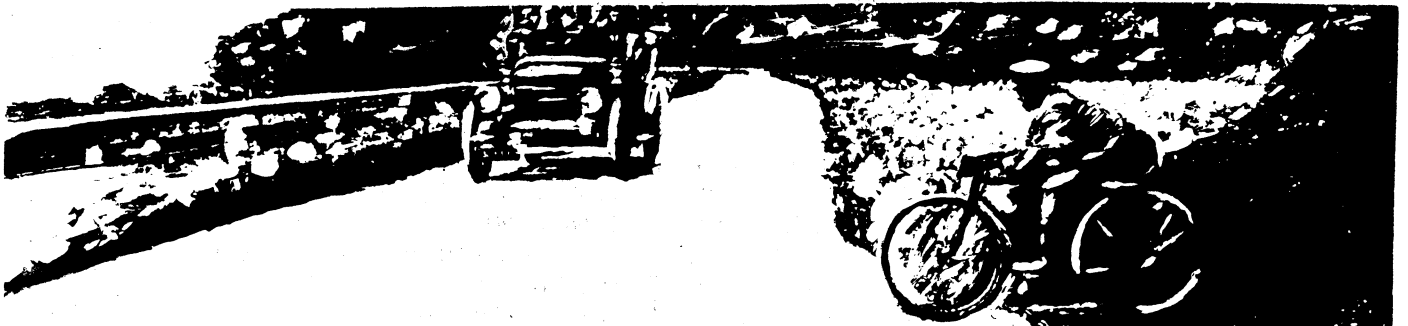
He was also, apparently, furnished with a bicycle, on which he lurked at the town border, ready to pounce on all motorists exceeding a six miles an hour speed limit. The fact that they were speeding on Conduit Road (now MacArthur Boulevard), then as now federal property, troubled him not at all.

As described in the Harper's Weekly issue of August 3, 1907, Conduit Road "scorchers" learned that when Marshal Collins ("the Human Automobile Trap") yelled "Stop!" he meant it. "As the big machines whiz past, their occupants giving the merry laugh to the blue-coated figure toiling upon his wheel, there is apt to be the sharp crack of a revolver, fired in the air or with sure aim, as the marshal may deem most appropriate to the case, and the car comes to as sudden a halt as its weight and speed will allow.

"Mayor Garrett of Glen Echo is, like Collins, a young man, and his court is always ready to do business," the article continues. "Many of the marshal's prizes are taken at night...but no matter at what hour the 'chug-chug' of a rapidly moving automobile is heard, the mayor and the marshal seem to be on the job.

"Perhaps the mayor has retired; in that case he appears clad in dignity and pajamas. The proceedings are brief...'Twenty-five dollars,' [the mayor] orders sweetly. It is usually immediately forthcoming, but if not--'Or three months on the rock-pile,' with the voice rising slightly."

Thus, the town of Glen Echo, "not much more than a name, a mayor, and a marshal" succeeded in making itself a nationally known speed trap. As current Mayor Fred Kuster puts it: "We made sure our coffers were filled with other people's money."

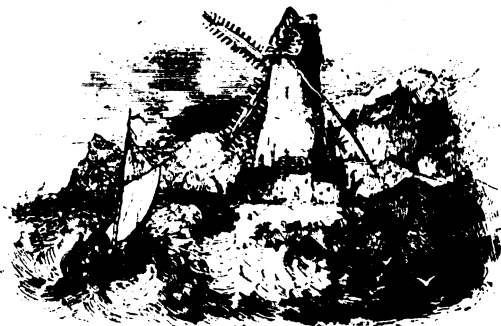


Marshal Collins lying in wait alongside Conduit Road.

## FIRST MAYOR (from page 4)

etc. \$40; interest on insurance \$97.50; clerk's salary \$60; and \$10 for bonding the clerk-treasurer.

In the town election of May 4, 1908, John A. Garrett was elected mayor for a third consecutive term. After serving only a year, he resigned, but continued to serve as Town Clerk under his successor, William H. Roach. In subsequent years, Garrett continued his legal career and served in administrative agencies of the Maryland State Government. As Glen Echo's first mayor, he was an effective leader in launching the community's chartered town government. He well deserves the honor of being considered the founding father of the town.



Classified ads are free to Glen Echo residents. Fee to non-residents: \$.50 per line of 30 spaces or fewer. Display ads, \$2 per column inch. Ads may be left with Carolyn Reptsik, 7309 University Avenue, Glen Echo, or mailed to The Echo, P. O. Box 598, Glen Echo, MD 20812 (stamp required). Make checks payable to "The Town of Glen Echo." PLEASE DO NOT PHONE ADS TO EDITOR. Ad Deadline: 24th of each month.

## Council Complains of Lack of Information on Restaurant Developments

By Gloria Levin

Correspondence between the Mayor and the County regarding permits for the Glen Echo Station restaurant was never brought to the attention of the Town Council, Council member Bill Shultz charged at the August 11 meeting.

In reviewing the County's file on the case, Councilman Shultz was surprised to find a letter of June 16 in which the Mayor contended that the restaurant owners' deck construction plans were acceptable to the town. The Council had never been informed of the plans nor had it been given the opportunity to assess their acceptability, Councilman Shultz claimed.

While conceding that the mayor has executive prerogatives, Councilman Shultz said, "I don't know why you didn't choose to tell

---continued on p. 7

## Alarms Raised About Oberlin Sediment Control

Plans to rectify the sediment problem created by the construction of parking facilities at the Glen Echo Station restaurant were characterized as temporary, stop-gap measures at the August 11 Town Council meeting. Council members and residents expressed concern that the problem is becoming increasingly serious.

Mayor Kuster indicated that the Sediment Control Officer is officially former town resident John Howe, who is no longer active.

Councilman Shultz will draft (with the advice of town attorney Tom Craven) a letter to the restaurant owners, citing violations of relevant ordinances.

## NOTICE

The town will soon begin clearing public sidewalks of obstructing overgrowth. Property owners will be charged the cost of such removal.

If weeds or other growth from your yard are hanging over or across town sidewalks, it is in your best interest to cut them back yourself rather than have the town do the work and bill you.

### RESTAURANT DEVELOPMENTS (from p. 6)

us what you did." He added that he had no objection to the deck as built.

The Council questioned Mayor Kuster very closely on his knowledge and handling of the County's negotiations with the restaurant regarding filing for proper permits and obtaining necessary approvals. Concerns were raised about inaccurate information provided by the mayor and the restaurant owners in prior meetings.

In his own defense, the mayor said, "I made an executive decision, and it was the right decision." He asked Councilman Shultz if he were "on a vendetta against the restaurant."

Councilman Shultz countered that he was against differential enforcement of the town's rules and procedures, noting that some residents have been "held to the grindstone" while others are favored.

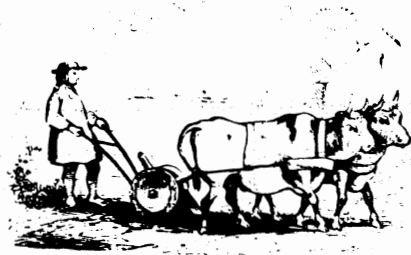
Councilman Odell noted that he would like "to be more fully informed in the future of the trail you've taken and why you took it." Councilwoman Beers suggested that the Mayor circulate copies of correspondence each month along with the minutes of the prior meeting.

## Editorial

Walking around town in the early morning or evening, it is apparent that a number of residents are letting their dogs out unattended to "do their business." The "business," of course, often gets done on a neighbor's property. It should also be pointed out that some dogs might be perceived as "menacing," if only because they are so large, even though the owner is convinced they are "friendly." This is not to imply that small dogs don't bite, too.

The frequency of this practice appears to have increased since the town lost its hard-working animal control officer several months ago. We would hate to think that the good citizens of this town only obey the ordinances because they are enforced and not because they realize that the laws are simply consideration for your fellow townspeople under a different name.

The fact is, owning a dog in an urban setting means taking it for a walk morning and evening, with a "pooper-scooper" if necessary, or building it a fenced-in yard. It is not fair to your neighbors to do otherwise.




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### NEXT TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

Monday, September 8 -- 8:00 p.m.  
Glen Echo Town Hall

All residents encouraged to attend

Contact the Clerk-Treasurer if you want to add an item to the agenda.

## TOWN DIRECTORY TO BE DEVELOPED

The Town Council has approved the expenditure of funds to produce a town directory. This directory would list names, addresses, phone numbers, and professions, skills, hobbies, names and ages of children, and babysitting availability. Our neighboring communities of Bannockburn and Cabin John have had such directories for a number of years. Some of you may recall efforts a few years ago to gather data to produce a Glen Echo directory. Now, volunteers have offered to make another effort.

A form for the input of each residence is attached at the end of this issue of The Echo. We ask that all families fill it out. If we don't get a sufficiently high response rate, we will be unable to publish the directory.

We believe that the directory will increase in-town communication, help us get to know our neighbors, and possibly lead to new business and social contacts through the listing of professions, skills, and hobbies.

We have given serious thought to privacy concerns, and ask that you fill out only the information that you want published. For example, if you don't want to have your phone number listed, don't put that information on the form. We will respect your wishes and concerns regarding privacy. Also, the directory will only be issued to town residents. From what we know of the experiences with the Bannockburn and Cabin John directories, invasions of privacy have not been a problem.

Please return the directory by September 30 to The Echo (P.O. Box 598, Glen Echo, MD 20812), or to Carlotta Anderson (38 Wellesley Circle), or to Don Dworsky (7315 Columbia Avenue). Again, we will respect your wishes and concerns regarding privacy, but a low response rate will mean that we will be unable to develop a meaningful directory.

—Don Dworsky and Carlotta Anderson



Bird Feeders  
& Seed For  
America's  
Fasting  
Growing  
Hobby

7687 MacArthur Blvd.  
Cabin John, MD 20818  
**229-3141**



### *New Volunteers*

The Echo is proud to announce two new contributors.

Ruth Laughlin, of 21 Wellesley Circle, is now providing the headlines for the paper. She makes them up at Xerox Corporation, where she works. This effort saves the editorial staff considerable time and the town some money.

Rufus Lusk, of 6010 Princeton Avenue, is making available information on property sales in town. This information will be culled from his Lusk Reports, a real estate information service.

## **Derelict Pet Owners To Have Fees Doubled**

No pet owners have secured town licenses for their animals since The Echo published the list last month of those who had already complied with the ordinance.

As indicated in the article, all applications for licenses made after August 31 will be subject to double the regular fees, according to Renny Springuel, Animal Control Board member.

Those in arrears will be contacted, he said. The Board was particularly concerned because several of the animals in question no longer have valid rabies vaccinations on record.

Regular fees are \$4.00 for a male or spayed female dog or cat and \$8.00 for an unspayed one.

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### **Open Space Committee Being Formed**

Brockie Stevenson and Bertha Smith have been appointed by Mayor Kuster to the Open Space Committee. He is planning to add more members in the future.

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### **Restaurant Acclaimed**

"A local favorite since it opened in June" is how the Washington Post described the new Glen Echo Station restaurant recently.

"This casual establishment is a far cry from its rough-and-tumble predecessor, Trav's Tavern," the article stated, but pointed out the Trav's famous chili is still on the menu.

The restaurant was named for Glen Echo Park's old trolley station, the article noted, and "glossy photographs from those days line the walls of the friendly bar inside."

## **HIGHLIGHTS of the TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**

August 11

In reviewing the Treasurer's Report, the Council noted the many payments to the town's maintenance person. Although he is paid \$7 per hour as an independent contractor, one billing paid him at the rate of \$15 per hour. Mayor Kuster explained that the person had been working very hard and was both competent and versatile; Councilman Odell countered that he had had to provide close supervision for a simple job. When Councilwoman Beers questioned the basis for billing of hours, Clerk-Treasurer Carroll admitted: "I can't keep up with him" but pays when so ordered by the Mayor. In response to the request of Council members that payment be more closely supervised, the Mayor agreed ...

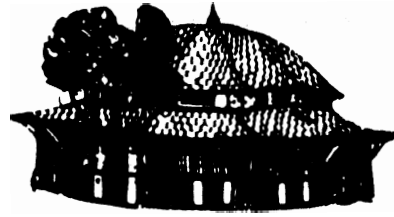
Council members recommended that the town attorney be invited to all future meetings because they found his availability helpful. Mr. Craven agreed, feeling his attendance provides him a better perspective on the approaches the town wishes to take on issues on which his counsel is sought ...

The Council voted to approve an expenditure not to exceed \$200, for preparation of a town directory...

Mayor Kuster acknowledged the many hours of additional, voluntary time that Clerk-Treasurer Lois Carroll expends on town business by recommending an increase in her salary--from \$3,600 to \$4,200. The Council approved the motion unanimously...

---Gloria Levin

# At GLEN ECHO PARK



BLUEGRASS & OLD TIME  
MUSIC FESTIVAL

September 28  
Music by over 35 bands  
From 12 noon to 6 p.m.

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FREE PICNIC CONCERT

Before the Saturday Night  
Big Band Dance  
October 4

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DANCING

Friday evenings-Square Dancing,  
from 8:30; \$4  
Saturday evenings-  
Big Band Dancing,  
9:00 to midnight, \$5  
Sunday evenings-Folk Dancing,  
from 8:00 p.m., \$5

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## Classified Ads

PIANO LESSONS: Experienced  
teacher. Music degree, per-  
forming experience. Certified  
member Music Teachers National  
Association. Call 229-7882.

\* \* \* \* \*

TYPING SERVICES: Call Jennifer,  
229-9121.

\* \* \* \* \*

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## Adventure Theatre

"The Magic Horn"  
September 27-November 2  
Weekends at 1:30 & 3:30  
\$4. Call 320-5331

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## Cable TV Update

When Glen Echo finally gets  
cable television, it will have  
available 61 channels rather than  
the originally planned 120, and the  
cost will be greater.

Mayor Kuster told the Town  
Council last month that the new  
contract eliminates the provision  
for local programming direct from  
municipalities; instead townships  
must use a central location for such  
programming.

The town will be hooked up for  
reception six months after the  
contract is activated, the Mayor  
predicted. Glen Echo will receive a  
pro rata share of town subscriptions  
and will share in the county's  
general cable TV fund as well.

## EXCERPTS FROM THE TREASURERS REPORT -- July, 1986

Steven Cleaver (town maintenance)....\$870.00  
Charles Yuster (town maintenance) ...\$150.00  
Kevin Spanner (install fence) .....\$365.00

# THE KEYHOLE

11

By

*Tillie McNoldy*

Back to school for those "lucky" students, and back to reporting on our vulnerable neighbors by "The Keyhole."

Among those who traveled to distant places throughout the summer were Marge and Cal Franklin and daughter Mary from University Avenue. Marge and Mary spent two weeks in Connecticut visiting Marge's parents, while Cal spent two weeks with the reserves in Hawaii.

Daryl and Fred Kuster and son Bill chose Ocean City for a couple weeks of "R&R."

Lois Carroll of Yale Avenue commuted between Maryland and Maine. Her idea of "getting away from it all" is to send us our taxes and then take off for her "hideaway." But, like MacArthur, she will return. So, friends and neighbors, keep your check books handy!

Mac and I chose Holland and Belgium in April to see the beautiful tulip displays, and in July, the U.S. Virgin Isles and St. Maartens.

Thelma and Dave Fessenden of Bryn Mawr Avenue together with David II, wife Amy and son Scott motored to New Hampshire for several days, then to Niagara Falls on the Canadian side.

Chris and Marie Hewitt and family of Wellesley Circle have left town for a year on a sabbatical. Chris will be teaching at the University of London.

Eric Anderson, also of Wellesley Circle, spent a month in Thailand and the Philippines

staying with the relatives of his traveling companions.

Not all the traffic in Town was "outgoing". We also had former residents who were seen returning to Glen Echo.

Janice and Jimmy Miller, formerly of Bryn Mawr Avenue, made one of their frequent trips to the area and a stop in Glen Echo is always on the itinerary. They now reside in Cherokee, Arkansas.

Also here, from Arcadia, Indiana, was Sharon (McNoldy) Kleinfelter and husband Jim and daughters Christina and Leslie.

The Rain Dancer in Rockville was the place selected for a dinner and re-union with retirees Irene and Ed Cannon who live in Sun City, Arizona, but who, at one time, called 5 Vassar Circle "home." They are actually only semi-retired because they both are still quite active.

Ed just returned from three weeks of school in Mexico. Upon leaving here, they were going to San Antonio, Texas, for the Postmasters' National Convention. For those of you who are new to our area, Irene was formerly the Postmaster in Glen Echo. She has been appointed the Regional Representative for retired postmasters for five western states so attending the convention was a "must."

Among those former neighbors reminiscing with the Cannons were Lee Clune, Dot Lumsden, Carolyn Reptsik, Tillie and Mac McNoldy and Paul Alban.

# Glen Echo Town Directory

**NAME(S):**

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**ADDRESS:**

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**CHILDREN AND AGES:**

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**PROFESSIONS, HOBBIES, SKILLS, BABYSITTING (WITH NAME OF PERSON):**

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**PHONE NUMBER:**

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**THIS INFORMATION IS FOR THE GLEN ECHO TOWN DIRECTORY.**

**IT WILL ONLY BE DISTRIBUTED TO TOWN RESIDENTS.**

**RETURN TO THE ECHO, P.O. BOX 598, GLEN ECHO, MD 20812 OR TO  
CARLOTTA ANDERSON, 38 WELLESLEY CIRCLE, OR TO DON DWORSKY, 7315  
COLUMBIA AVENUE.**

**PLEASE RETURN BY SEPTEMBER 30.**